

PROFESSOR PETER GRASSMANN

ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY



PROFESSOR PETER GRASSMANN, who celebrated his 75th birthday on 13 August 1982, can look back on a life rich in activities and achievements as a teacher and researcher.

During his professional life he influenced strongly the newly developing discipline of chemical engineering through his teaching, and his 240 publications and several books [one of the latter, *Physical Fundamentals of Chemical Engineering* (Pergamon Press, London, 1971) also appeared in English]. The common thread which runs through all of his publications is the emphasis on the basic physical laws involved.

Peter Grassmann was born in Munich, Germany in 1907. He studied experimental physics at the university in the same town and obtained his doctorate in 1932 with Professor W. Gerlach as his advisor. In the years following he worked at the Helium Laboratory of the Physikalisch-Technische-Reichsanstalt under Professor W. Meissner on cryogenics and especially on superconductivity. In 1937 he joined the Adolf Messer

company at Griesheim-Frankfurt, where he took charge of the design of plants for the liquefaction and separation of air and gases. In 1950 he was appointed as Professor for Caloric Equipment and Refrigeration at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zürich, Switzerland. Through his initiative, the originally modest laboratory facilities developed into the internationally known Institute for Processes and Refrigeration (Institut für Verfahrens- und Kältetechnik) of the ETH, Zürich. Many students received their education in this laboratory and more than 75 successfully based their doctoral dissertations on work in the various fields of chemical engineering in this institute. He retired from this position in 1975.

Professor Grassmann's achievement found recognition in his election to the honorary membership of numerous societies and institutions in many countries. He became a corresponding member of the Bavarian Academy of Science, received the Arnold Eucken Medal of the VDI, and the Linde medal of the

Deutscher Kältetechnischer Verein. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate of the Technical University in Munich and has received the Max Jakob Award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

His friends, students and colleagues from many countries take this opportunity of his 75th birthday to wish him many more happy, healthy and active years in the circle of his family.

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